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MINNESOTA
USED TO BE
A BASKETBALL
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NO LONGER.

HOOP DREAMS

FOOD Beast BBQ's a real beauty p. 15

FILM Feminist superhero *Captain Marvel* p. 24

MUSIC When Prince rejected *The Simpsons* p. 29

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HOBBIES: Ukulele, Tuesday Boozeday, caring for my 38 houseplants, and singing to my dog "Gwen Stepawni"

HIDDEN TALENT: I can change my own oil

WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU: Anything but pop country on the jukebox please!

FAVORITE MN EXPERIENCE: Catching a show at Varsity Theater

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST/GROUP: New Reb

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WHAT'S THE COOLEST/MOST FUN REASON FOR CELEBRATION BY A PATRON?: Dog birthday party!

BARTENDER
OF THE WEEK
→

Rachel



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Minnesota used to be a basketball backwater. No longer. *by Solomon Gustavo*

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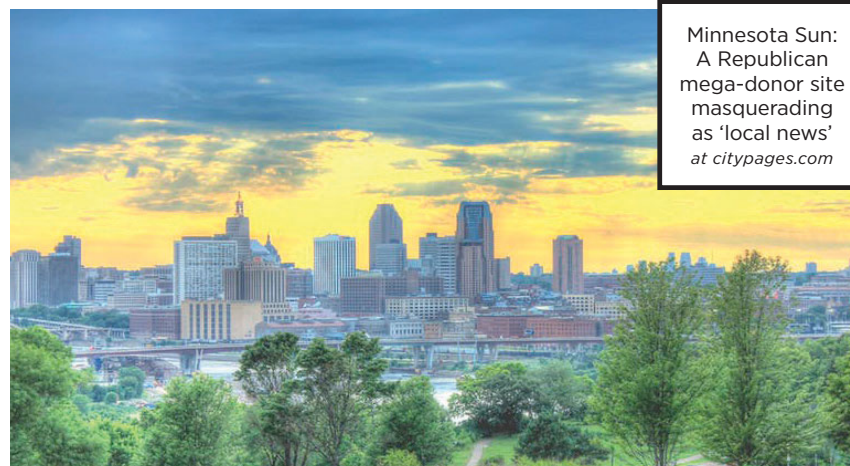


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THE SHORTLIST



Minnesota Sun:
A Republican
mega-donor site
masquerading
as 'local news'
at citypages.com

THE MINNESOTA SUN

THE STAT SHEET:

\$4.6 million

Cost of curtains installed at U.S. Bank
stadium to create "consistent light"
for the NCAA's Final Four

64

Percentage of Americans who
believe Donald Trump committed crimes
before he became president

900

Pounds of weed seized from two
Montana men after being stopped
on I-94 near Alexandria

45

Percentage who believe he
committed crimes as president,
according to the Quinnipiac Poll

**"Yippie, I won't need a second
job to pay for a Diet Pepsi."**

Reader Michelle Lechner responds to "The
Twins just announced new 'family-friendly'
concession prices," at citypages.com.

THE BLOCKADE

REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS planning
their annual blockade of gun safety bills
in the Minnesota legislature may wish to
try something unusual: read. A study in
the British Medical Journal has once again
put science behind the obvious: that more
guns equal more mass shootings.

It found that states with lenient laws
consistently had more mass shootings
than those without. A 10 percent rise in
ownership translates to a 35 percent rise
in mass shootings, defined as an incident
with four or more people dead.

While the Good Guy with a Gun theory
makes for nice sloganeering, the mount-
ing corpses are testament to its absurdity.

POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

Augsburg University
unearthed a delightful
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for Minneapolis

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10 people why they resist the
Minneapolis lake's name

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'LYNCHING' LINE gets Doug
McLeod yanked off KSTC 45
hockey tournament

'GENDER' WARS

55 House members actually voted against equal rights for all Minnesotans

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) has had a simple purpose since it was first proposed in Congress in 1923: People should get equal protection under the law no matter their gender.

That's as uncontroversial as legislation gets. But the ERA has struggled for decades to get ratification nationwide. So legislators in Minnesota are trying (again) to get an amendment on the state's books. If we can't have equality all over the United States, we can at least have it here.

The Minnesota House voted on the amendment on Thursday. It passed 72-55.

But that means there were 55 people who thought "equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied on account of gender" was a statement too controversial to get behind.

Many zeroed in on one word: "gender." Several Republican reps, including Anoka's

Peggy Scott, Mazeppa's Steve Drazkowski, and Maple Lake's Marion O'Neill, argued to change the wording to "sex," "biological sex," or "sex" as it "appears on one's birth certificate" instead.

"Gender," they argued, could be construed to mean something that is neither male nor female, giving rights to those genders too.

"Biological sex is an objective fact," Republican Glenn Gruenhagen argued. People can sometimes "change their identity based on 'feelings' and not 'objective facts,' and feel one way one day, and another way another day." He didn't explain why "feelings" would make a person less deserving of equal rights.

There was also concern about granting rights to trans men and women. They could possibly use facilities that make them more comfortable, or, say, play on the boys' basketball team if they identify



Rep. Peggy Bennett fears for the death of women's sports.

YOUTUBE

as a boy. Republican Rep. Peggy Bennett worried that allowing trans women to play women's sports would mean "the end of girls' and women's sports as we know it."

"We're going backwards, people," she said.

Then came abortion—a word that appears nowhere in the amendment. O'Neill argued that the ERA in other states has been used to strike down bans on taxpayer-funded abortions, and proposed that this right should be explicitly left out of the legislation. (Her amendment

failed, as did others trying to change the word "gender.")

In the end, the ERA's proponents prevailed.

"Which one of you gets to decide how we self-identify?" Democratic sponsor Mary Kunesch-Podein asked. "It is none of your business... I identify as me, you identify as you, and we are all equal."

She promised that the "entire state of Minnesota" was going to see who exactly they represented: "Everyone in Minnesota, or just certain people that fall under your definition of gender." —HANNAH JONES

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Albert
Cummings

APR 2
7PM



Cyrille
Aimée: A
Sondheim
Adventure

APR 3
7PM



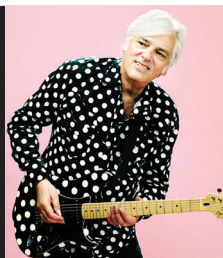
The Cookers

APR 4
7 & 9PM



Robyn
Hitchcock

APR 6
7PM



DakhaBrakha

APR 7
6PM



Southside
Johnny &
the Asbury
Jukes

APR 8-9
7PM



Cowboy
Junkies

SOLD OUT
APR 10-11
7PM



Squirrel Nut
Zippers

APR 12
7 & 9:30PM



Nicholas
David
w/Heatbox

APR 13
7 & 9:30PM



SimpleGifts w/
Billy McLaughlin
Presents:
The Young and The
Rest
APR 14
6PM



Crystal
Bowersox

APR 17
7PM



Daryl
Stuermer
Duo

APR 18
7PM



Victor
Wooten

APR 19
7 & 9:30PM



Tina
Schlieske
Sings Sinatra
to Simone

APR 20
7 & 9:30PM



Easter
Brunch w/
Twin Cities Hot
Club

APR 21
10AM-2PM



A Tribute to
Sister Rosetta
Tharpe & Marie
Knight

APR 21
7PM



Delvon
Lamarr
Organ Trio

APR 24
7 & 9PM



Jearlyn
Steele
"This Is Me"

APR 25
7PM



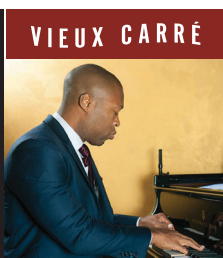
James
Hunter Six

APR 27
7 & 9:30PM



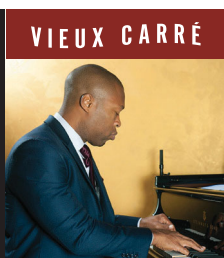
Richard
Johnson
Quartet
Plays Dave Brubeck's
Time Out

APR 26



Richard
Johnson Trio
Plays West Side Story

APR 27



Arturo
Sandoval

APR 28
7 & 9PM



Kevin
Eubanks
Group

APR 29
7 & 9PM



Check out our new menu and entire event calendar!

BY SOLOMON GUSTAVO

Nicollet Island overflowed with people hoping to watch some of the best prep basketball in the country.

Minnehaha Academy and its star, Jalen Suggs—currently the nation's 12th best high schooler in the 2020 recruiting class, according to ESPN—were here to play DeLaSalle and its star, Tyrell Terry.

Landing a spot in the DeLaSalle parking lot was but a pipe dream as people inched their cars down congested parking lanes. Awaiting them was a throng huddled outside the school. The game was sold out and the doors were locked.

"My feet are frozen," said Maji George, her braided hair uncovered in the winter wind. She and sister Mari arrived around 5:30 p.m. for the 7 o'clock game, fully expecting a dash for good seats. The doors were already closed.

The crowd of dozens outside maintained a teeth-clattering posture, hoping against hope someone might leave and make room for them inside. They were black, white, people too young and old to drive, and all kinds in between, shivering impatiently.

It was the game to see on this frigid Saturday night, a collision between two nationally coveted talents anchoring dominating teams, a night that's become common in Minnesota.

DeLaSalle '56 alum Clearance Shallbetter spoke of Tyrell Terry defending the basket like a hero defending a city. The elusive 6-foot-2 guard, who will play next year for Stanford, has a blazing first step and needs only the slimmest room to get a shot off. Minnehaha Academy's Suggs is a facilitating two-way junior guard who, at 6-foot-4, is an equal threat to overpower defenses.

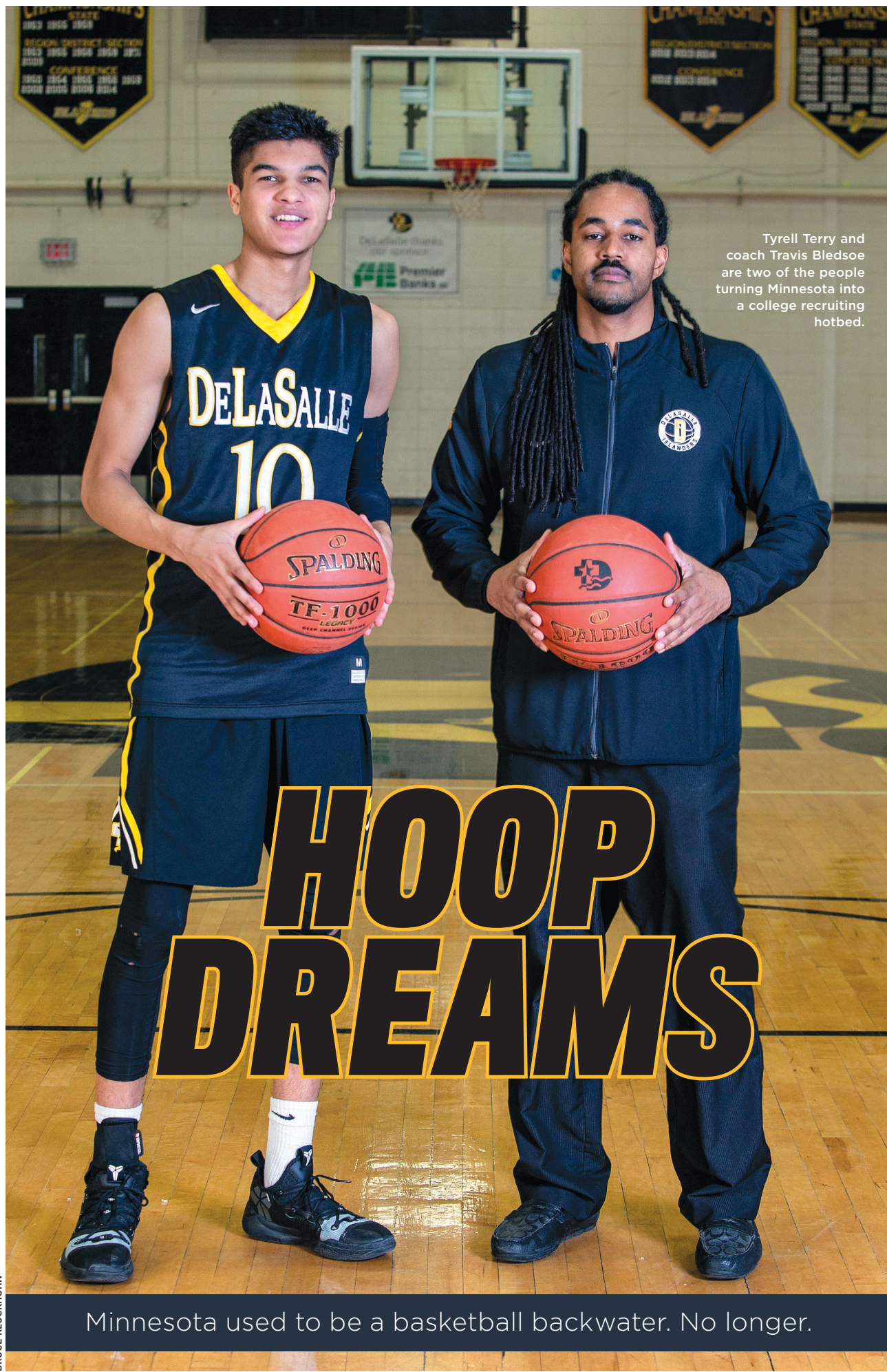
"I heard of that guy," Shallbetter says dismissively in the cold.

The game has already begun. A fire marshal who pushed his way inside remerged to make it official: No one else would be allowed in the building.

Still, people stuck around. A group huddled around a kid who pulled up a Facebook livestream on his phone.

Rob Sivanich and his 11-year-old boy were among the 40 or so people still hoping against hope after halftime. Sivanich grew up in north Minneapolis, where he played basketball for Patrick Henry "before they became good." He rattled off proud memories of getting crushed by North, St. Paul Central, and bygone Marshall-University. He and his dad used to go to random games and made ritual trips to the state tournament.

Sivanich saw the DeLaSalle game on the schedule and, pumped by the matchup, ran over. "There are so many good players and teams now," he said. He and his son feel



Tyrell Terry and coach Travis Bledsoe are two of the people turning Minnesota into a college recruiting hotbed.

Minnesota used to be a basketball backwater. No longer.

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compelled to stay till the very end, just in case more people are let in.

Before the night's over, Suggs will score 30 points, pushing his team past a halftime deficit and 26-point outing from Terry to secure Minnehaha a 79-71 win.

After the game, Terry said he'd never heard the gym so loud.

RICH SOIL

As people who actually get inside to see a game can attest, Minnesota basketball is getting better by the year. "The growth of the sport in the state has been immense," says Wisconsin Badgers coach Greg Gard.

It's not uncommon to see talent that makes coaches salivate, players who will land with big colleges and have a real shot at the NBA. And they're not just city kids. Basketball genius is cropping up all over the state.

"Apple Valley wasn't a destination. Burnsville wasn't a destination 20 years ago. Prior Lake wasn't," says Gard, who first recruited Minnesota players in the '90s as an assistant with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Last summer, he signed Lakeville North forward Tyler Wahl. "You just watched it all shift and change."

It used to be that the state was easily bypassed, save for the rare gem like Gopher god Dave Winfield or NBA champ Kevin McHale. Now? "I think it's a Top 10 state for basketball," says DeLaSalle coach Travis Bledsoe.

Bledsoe played for the school from 2001-05, during what he called the middle of Minnesota's transition to a basketball destination, losing in state to a Braham team led by Michigan State-bound Isaiah Dahlman.

"I grew up in North watching Khalid El-Amin," Bledsoe says. "He's probably the grandfather of all of this."

Tyrell Terry, the star of DeLaSalle, will play for Stanford next year.

El-Amin mesmerized Minnesota in the mid-'90s as he led Minneapolis North to three state titles. His game was unlike any the state had produced before. Until that point, the prep greats tended to be big, tough guys. They also were few and far between.

Then came the 5-foot-10 bulldog point guard who loved to fight for a rebound as much as he slipped around defenders with his impeccable footwork. He could pull up to shoot or finish at the rim, but tended to deliver more punishment with his passing.

He also did something no Minnesotan had done for a while—get recruited by a big-time college program. He would take over UConn as an underclassman. In 1999, El-Amin led Connecticut to its first national championship. He was drafted by the Chicago Bulls a year later, before moving on to a 15-year career in Europe, Israel, and Venezuela.

"El-Amin showed everybody that a guard or a player could make it from Minnesota," says Bledsoe.

Aside from Dahlman, those early days also had Monticello High center Joel Przybilla, who went on to become a first-round NBA pick, North's zippy sharpshooter Kammron Taylor, who played for Wisconsin, and Hopkins' 6-foot-9 forward Dan Coleman, who played for the Gophers.

Yet it wouldn't be until 2007 that Minnesota solidified its basketball bona fides.

"I grew up feeling like you could be a pro," says Cole Aldrich.

At Bloomington Jefferson, where he graduated in 2007, Aldrich was a throwback Minnesota great. The 6-foot-11, 250-pound center was a behemoth in the paint. He could set a pick and drive for an alley oop, or set up low, swallowing a defender pinned behind him. On defense, Aldrich was

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a huge windmill everyone could see but never avoid, swatting away balls with enough force to power a small hunting lodge.

He would go on to play for Kansas and win a national championship, catapulting him to the NBA as a first-round draft pick. He would eventually make his way back home to play for the Timberwolves.

Jon Leuer, who is still putting in NBA minutes for the Detroit Pistons, graduated from Orono High that same year. Blake Hof-farber from Hopkins, the small but gutsy three-point shooter who hit a famed, game-winning shot lying on his back that was replayed on SportsCenter, went to the Gophers, accompanied by St. Bernard's big man Trevor Mbakwe.

Two years later, Hopkins' Royce White excited the nation with his hybrid style—something still novel then—as a 6-foot-8, wide-bodied power forward who played like a guard. The Houston Rockets would eventually make him a first-round pick.

It had been 10 years since El-Amin, the godfather of Minnesota basketball, cut down the nets for UConn. But his home state was consistently churning out sturdy, big-conference talent.

From 2009 till 2014, Minnesotans filled rosters for Iowa State, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Vanderbilt, Penn State, Wichita State, Creighton, and Northwestern.

The real turning point that made Minnesota a "Top 10 state," in Bledsoe's estimation, came in 2014. That's when the steady-handed floor general Tyus Jones was plucked from Apple Valley by Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. Jones would win a championship and get drafted in the first round by the Timberwolves.

At the time Jones left Apple Valley, he was the No. 4 ranked high school player in the nation, according to ESPN. Findlay College Prep's Rashad Vaughn was 19 before playing for UNLV and the Milwaukee Bucks. DeLaSalle's bruising forward Reid Travis was 27, on his way to Stanford before transferring to Kentucky, the NBA's hottest college farm team.

Jones' No. 4 ranking would be the highest a Minnesotan had achieved since the sports network began its rankings in 2007.

THE HEART FACTORY

At Hopkins open gyms, it's not rare to see collegiate royalty like Kentucky's John Calipari, North Carolina's Roy Williams, or Kansas' Bill Self saunter about.

"Some come just to see if we have players," says longtime Hopkins coach Ken



BRUCE KLUCKHOHN

Lakeville North's Tyler Wahl, who's headed to Wisconsin, is the latest star to emerge from the southern suburbs.

Novak. The city's become a well-worn recruiting stop.

Others, like former Marquette University and University of Utah coach Rick Majerus—rest his big-bellied, bigger-hearted soul—would sit and talk basketball with Novak for hours, hanging out long after everyone else had left.

Hopkins has produced its share of heroes, like NBA power forward Kris Humphries, Hoffarber, White, and Amir Coffey, the most exciting player for the Gophers. Seeing college basketball's biggest coaches was exciting 20 years ago, when it was new and Novak was a younger coach. Now it's normal.

John Oxtan, in his 29th year coaching Lakeville North, said the increase in attention "has been pretty crazy."

"My first probably 15 to 18 years... okay, not a lot of interest," he says. If coaches did come calling, they were mainly from Division III schools. Lakeville North didn't have its first D1 player until 2010. But change came quickly.

Hustle guard J.P. Macura played for Xavier and is now with the Charlotte Hornets. Six-foot-eleven shooting forward Nate Reuvers plays for Wisconsin.

Oxtan says North may be a little spoiled by the attention these days, that they've "come to expect it maybe a little."

But it's also energized Lakeville, which went from a football suburb to one hanging basketball banners and send-

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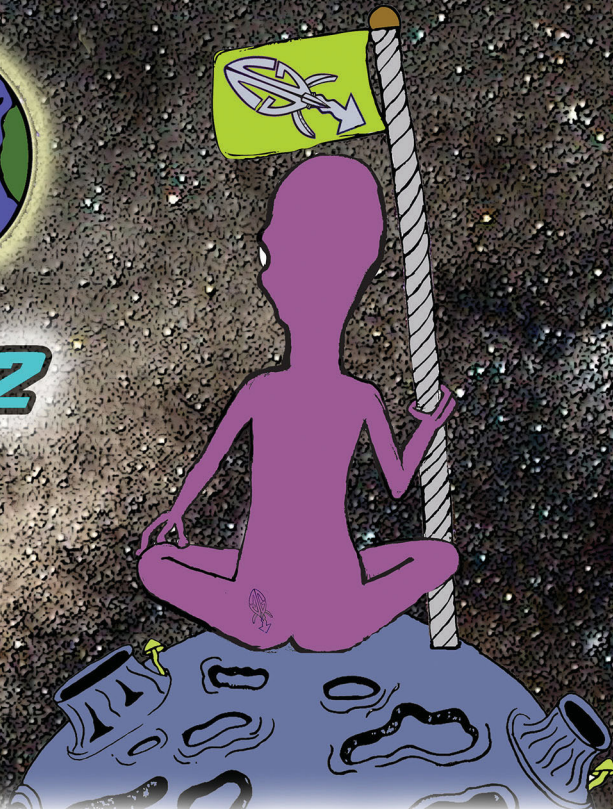
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BRUCE KLUCKHOHN

ing its players off to compete with the nation's best.

Some believe all this is being propelled by a native feistiness. Due to little respect and "harsh winters," Minnesotans play with a chip on their shoulder that shows up on the national AAU circuit, says Bledsoe.

Teams from places like California used to roll their eyes at the home state boys. They would see the word "Minnesota" and immediately take on a condescending tone, says Terry.

"They'd be like, 'These guys are from Minnesota, let's destroy them.' Once the game started it was different. We would come out and play harder than everyone."

"Our style is a bit more hard-nosed," adds Wahl, a finesse forward with sneaky rim protection skills.

Yet that sense of condescension lingers. "I still feel like we're a bit overlooked," says Terry. "In years past, they definitely looked down on us."

Oxton believes the state's headway was helped by the AAU circuit showcasing Minnesota talent and convincing college coaches to make the trip north.

"It's a nationwide trend," says Novak. "But, man, Minnesota has a lot of really good players."

GOOD TIMES KEEP BALLIN'

Now that Minnesota's a fully fledged basketball state, all that's left is to take in the sights.

The weekend Minnehaha played DeLaSalle, Lakeville North beat Prior Lake and Dawson Garcia, who is No. 34 on ESPN's list of the best recruits in 2020. A few days later, White Bear Lake was beat down by Woodbury's East Ridge, which has three D1-bound players.

Lakeville has gone from a football suburb to one hanging basketball banners.

East Ridge features sophomore Kendall Brown, who sits at No. 11 on ESPN's list of 2021 recruits. He stands at 6-foot-6 and 180 pounds of lanky, chiseled steel that should become more chiseled when he reaches grown-man strength. He has hops for days, quick defensive feet, and a nose for a block.

Kendall is a nightmare in transition, but even as an otherworldly sophomore, East Ridge is not yet his team. It's led by his older brother, senior Courtney Brown, a stockier forward headed to UW-Milwaukee.

East Ridge suffocated White Bear with a swarming defense that trapped ball handlers as soon as they crossed half court, forcing turnovers and leading to exhilarating counter attacks.

In one sequence, senior guard Zach Zebrowski stole the ball and passed it to Courtney. In a few steps, he was at the free throw line. In another, he was launching a wicked, one-handed hammer slam.

Across town at Hopkins' Lindbergh Center, a ginormous airplane hangar of a basketball shrine, the talents of Arizona commit Zeke Nnaji are on display. The 6-foot-11 forward is a bloodhound on the boards, sniffing out rebounds and sending alarm to those who dare approach the rim.

The names that will populate Minnesota sports lists 20 years from now will feature many more basketball players, those who've won college championships and starred in the NBA.

America's most beautiful sport fits nicely in Minnesotan life. It is sport at its purest—just a ball, a hoop, and 10 guys on the court. It's an indoor game, and it's cold here. Basketball is extremely Minnesotan, and Minnesota is extremely basketball. **CP**

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BY MIKE MULLEN

When Jeff Weber decided to move into the former Legend's space in northeast Minneapolis, the chef thought back to the days the building was a barbecue spot run by Jimmy Theros, who'd later go on to open Rudolph's in south Minneapolis.

Maybe the neighborhood could use another smoke joint?

In hindsight, the notion seems obvious. The Twin Cities' barbecue scene is bursting: Animales food truck is thriving at Able Brewing; it's hard to get a table at Revival St. Paul; Market Bar-B-Que responded to its forced Nicollet Avenue exit by reopening in a bigger space in Northeast; even the prize-winning Travail guys are planning a meaty Minneapolis project.

'Tis the era of barbecue in these towns, and what a time to be alive.

Weber, who formerly lived in North Carolina, recalls a time when the only condiment Minnesotans seemed interested in was... ranch dressing. That's why Beast offers a Minnesota White sauce, a send-up of an Alabama-style condiment that uses house-made ranch, made to order. Few people are getting that—"some people put it on a salad," Weber reports—but the chef/owner sees it as a good thing, a positive sign toward an increasingly adventurous palate.

Local tongues have grown right up, which means barbecue's not only a welcome guest: It better have something to say for itself.

Beast sure does, and with affordable price points (a single-item platter, with a side, can be had for \$16), the only one losing an arm or a leg for the experience is whichever "beast" you've picked out.

Less than two months after its polar vortex debut, we would already put this barbecue up against any other. The ribs are perfectly crusted with a dry rub that has, mysteriously, trapped every single drop of whatever juice that pig had to give. Anyone can smoke a turkey, and chicken wings ain't the toughest assignment, but ribs can be tricky. And Beast's, sourced from Sioux Preme meat packing in South Dakota, are sublime, the kind you'd happily eat dry, heavily sauced, or, like... out of a garbage can, if that's where your smoke-seeking nose found them.

About those sauces: Aside from the intentionally bland-ifying Minnesota White, there's a house sauce, a "sassy" house sauce (spicier than its "MN nice" menu neighbor), and a "Cackalacky," which borrows from the thin, vinegary stuff Weber ate

BEAUTY OF THE BEAST

A barbecue junkie's smoke den blossoms in Northeast



ALMA GUZMAN

in the Carolinas. For his money, he likes the "Sassy BEAST," and we're inclined to agree; there are spicier sauces to be found in the Twin Cities, but few are doing as much with depth, tang, and sugar all at once. It's a sauce good enough to make you trim your mustache before going, and/or ask permission to lick it off someone else's fingers.

There's also smoked chicken (crispy, and pleading from beyond its feathery grave to be dipped into something) and chopped-up servings of pork butt and chicken, both of which are tasty additions to one of Beast's one-, two-, three-, and four-meat platters. In case someone at your table's longing for their last trip to Lake Superior, there's smoked whitefish. Our advice: Get the BEAST Platter, (capitalization theirs, enthusiasm ours) and fill it up with a little of everything.

But the real standout is the smoked BEAST, served either on its own or on a sammie. It's beef, so maybe you're expect-

ing brisket. Spit your expectations out and make room for a sirloin steak, sliced thick, the kind of cut that'll have you calling your therapist to discuss resentment toward your father for just dropping steaks on a grill when he should've been slow-and-low smoking them for hours, like Weber does.

Among the snacks, Pork Candy eats like it sounds—sweetened rib tips, the consumption of which you absolutely should not disclose to your dentist—and a smoked fish dip will have you happily ruining your breath for the next person you talk to. The only real misses on the menu were the slightly dull pimento cheese deviled eggs and a double butt burger (insert dirty jokes here), which came out so overly sweet it would fit right in on the dessert menu.

You'll wash stuff down with a solid tap beer and wine menu, well balanced with light and dark offerings, depending on how you want to help slide that meat down your gullet. There's also a Bourbon Salad cocktail (\$9) made especially for Beast with

Hog Mash booze from RockFilter, and a Beast New Fashion (\$12) concocted with the same spirit. Either works, but you'll probably want something slightly more "water-based" to balance the salt content. This is, after all, a barbecue place, and you need to ask your poor digestive system for forgiveness.

If you ever ate—or, let's be honest, drank—at the old Legend's, the setup at Beast will seem familiar, as if the old dive spot switched out a dirty-black-T-shirt-and-ripped-jeans outfit for a clean-black-T-shirt-and-new-jeans outfit. The spacious downstairs will be available for banquets,

parties, and (eventually) live music.

BEAST BARBECUE

825 E. Hennepin Ave.,
Minneapolis
612-584-3657;
beastbarbecue.com

Weber's still working that part out, and also wants to start experimenting with daily specials.

At the moment, he's got his hands plenty full, as he cheerfully slings logs into the smoker every damn day.

"I haven't had a day off yet this year," he says, just after bragging that Beast serves everything fresh and hot, and isn't in the habit of reheating pre-cooked smoke victims, like "some places." (He didn't call any out by name.)

As for the sides, our advice is to sleep with the tangy coleslaw, marry the creamy-crusty mac and cheese, and kill a forgettable corn-and-peppers dish. (Garlic Texas Toast is an essential, but you knew that.) All sides are prepared vegetarian, a reflection, Weber acknowledges, of the shifting tastes of some environmentally conscientious or health- and diet-constricted diners. Sure, those beans or greens might be "better" if he tossed some bacon in—but it's 2019, and people are "trying to mitigate their carbon footprint," and eat out ethically. If that's your mood, the portobello sammie will send you into that good night with no regrets.

Occasionally gorging on good, ethically sourced barbecue's not a sin. It just feels like it should be. The "crossroads" spot in Mississippi, where Robert Johnson is said to have sold his soul to learn how to play the blues, is now marked by a little monument—and a rib joint on the corner.

Go eat at Beast, but be careful. A stray hand reaching for a shared platter might get stabbed by a fork. The stabber will claim this was an accident. You will have your doubts. None will be about the quality of the food at this new and, clearly, badly needed Minneapolis fixture. **E**

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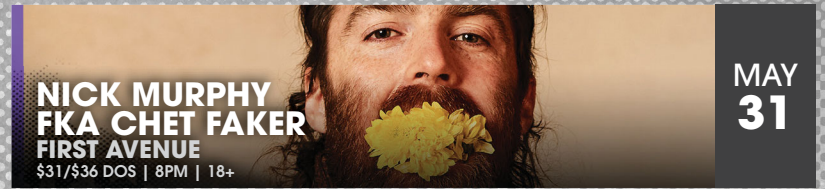
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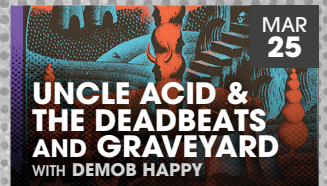
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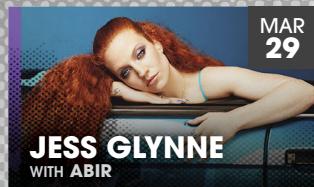
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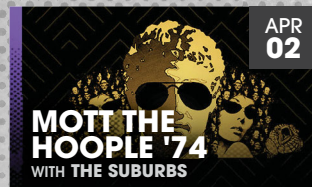
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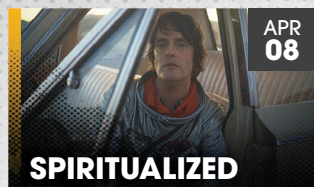


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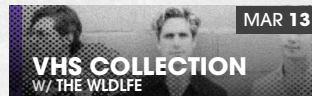
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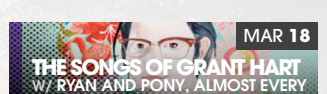
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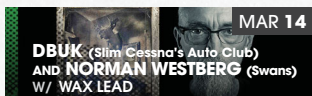


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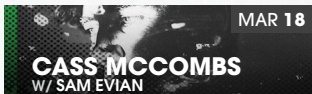
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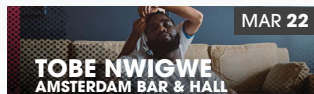


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A LIST

FRIDAY Finnegan's taproom turns 1 p. 20 **SATURDAY** Flip Phone celebrates spring break p. 23 **TUESDAY** Last Northeast Winter Market of the season p. 23

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DARIN KAMNETZ

WEDNESDAY 3.13

THEATER

THE HOBBIT

CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY

Get ready for trolls, dragons, elves, and dwarves as the Children's Theatre Company takes on J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. Adapted and directed by Greg Banks, the production features Dean Holt as Bilbo Baggins and Joy Dolo as both the wise wizard Gandalf and the sneaky/pathetic Gollum (plus other roles). The play follows Bilbo's journey from his peaceful shire to the misty mountains, through the Battle of Five Armies, and, ultimately, facing the evil dragon Smaug in his lair. Traveling with a party of 13 mighty dwarves, Bilbo learns that he's capable of bravery and cunning, and has adventures he never thought possible. The classic fantasy, informed partly by Tolkien's own experiences during World War I,

celebrates heroism, fellowship, and the ultimate battle of good versus evil. 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, plus Wednesday, March 13; 2 and 5 p.m. Sundays and Saturdays (in April Saturday times change to 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.). \$15-\$74. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-874-0400. **Through April 14 —SHEILA REGAN**

THURSDAY 3.14

FILM

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

THE PARKWAY THEATER

The Royal Tenenbaums is peak Wes Anderson. Fans of the director will delight in this 2001 flick, as the gang's all here: bright decor; simple costuming; flat, symmetric shots; zooms; slow-motion segments set to '60s rock; Bill Murray. People who aren't sure if they can handle Anderson's twee overload might find this one bearable, too,

as Gene Hackman's salty and kinda pissed-off take on patriarch Royal Tenenbaum cuts through the saccharine. A deadbeat dad, Royal scams his way back into his adult children's lives by tricking them into believing he is dying of cancer. Once child prodigies, the three siblings have floundered in adulthood. Emotions erupt and resolve as everyone attempts to forgive the past and restructure the family. It's all a little dark, but it's also cute as hell. 7:30 p.m. \$9/\$11 at the door. 4814 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

COMEDY

NIKKI GLASER

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY Standup comic Nikki Glaser is on the road every weekend. Then Monday through Thursday, she hosts a show on Sirius XM. But even if she could slow down, she's not sure she'd want to. "Let's be really gross about it and

say it's only for fame, money, and the respect of my peers," she says. "If I had all those things—and that's not why we do it, by the way—I don't think I would stop." There is one specific scenario she thinks about, though: "If I felt at peace and loved myself and had a family unit." That would make her reconsider. "I think a lot of comedians say they do it because they want to make people laugh, but there are many other reasons. I do it because deep down I feel unlovable and the laughter of a crowd makes me feel loved." Onstage, she talks about her life and relationships—or lack of the latter. These days she's able to add a perspective that comes with a few years of life experience. "I've had relationships, but I'm nowhere near getting married or having kids," she adds. "I'm only about a decade into being a sexual human being and figuring things out. Hopefully I can help a lot of young girls and boys my age and older." Indeed, older folks have resonated with her set. "After a show, women will come up to me and say, 'I know I'm old enough to be your mom, but you are speaking my truth.'" 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$25. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558.

Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON

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You'll have to wait a few more weeks until 30 Days of Biking kicks off in April, but those with cabin fever can join the Joyful Riders Club as it takes to the streets this week for a friendly ride. Led by Mario Macaruso and Patrick Stephenson, this month's trip pays homage to St. Patrick's Day. Revelers are encouraged to wear green on this low-key trek, which will take folks on a 10- to 15-mile slow roll. As always, attendees score a free beer or a non-alcoholic beverage of their choice from Surly. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. 520 Malcolm Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 763-535-3330. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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A-LIST



ALEC SOTH

FRIDAY 3.15

BARHOPPING ST. PATRICK'S DAY BARHOPPING

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Let's be honest: St. Pat's celebrations are a dime a dozen. The bars will be packed, and cabs will be hard to find. If you pick your location carefully, however, you might find some good deals and fun times. One way to beat the crowds is to start early. On Friday, Kieran's Irish Pub (85 Sixth St. N., Minneapolis) will be turning 25 with a birthday party that includes an all-day happy hour. From 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., the downtown pub will be serving up free appetizers and birthday cake, live music from the Tim Malloys and Teddy Holidays, and their anniversary beer by Finnegan's, served in a commemorative pint glass while they last. Merlins Rest (3601 E. Lake St., Minneapolis) will host three days of happenings. Wear a kilt on Friday for a buy-one, get-one deal, or order up a full Irish breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Traditional performances and bagpipes will entertain crowds each evening. HeadFlyer Brewing (861 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis) is hosting a Yappy Hour party on Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. This pup-friendly St. Patrick's Day party will feature homemade dog treats and freebies, plus beer and waffles for humans. A portion of the proceeds from the afternoon will benefit A Rotta Love Plus. Dubliner Pub (2162 University Ave. W., St. Paul) is throwing a multi-day party with a live music lineup on Friday that includes Ike Reilly, Brendan O'Shea, and the Langer's Ball (tickets are \$20 advance, \$25 the day of). Revelers will also find Irish food and drink specials in the pub and outside in the heated tent on Saturday and Sunday, with free admission.

Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

ART/GALLERY

ALEC SOTH: I KNOW HOW FURIOUSLY YOUR HEART IS BEATING

WEINSTEIN HAMMONS GALLERY

There's something calm, earnest, and honest about Alec Soth's photography. Over the years, the Minnesota-born artist has snapped couples outside of a bridal chapel, homeless folks by the Mississippi River, and small-town beauty contestants. For his latest project, he has selected a collection of people and their homes from around the world. An older woman in Odessa gazes into her mirror, pictures from her youth surrounding her vanity. A shirtless, tattooed man in Warsaw sits on his couch. A woman in Berlin looks as though she is pondering what to do next. There are also interiors: a bedroom in Bucharest with a taxidermied owl, a cluttered and well lived-in family room in St. Louis, the view from a window in Toulouse. "Rather than trying to make some sort of epic narrative about America, I wanted to simply spend time looking at other people and, hopefully, glimpse their interior life," he says. See these pieces and more at Soth's opening reception on Friday, March 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. 908 W. 46th St., Minneapolis; 612-822-1722.

Through May 4 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

BARHOPPING

ST. PATRICK'S REVELRY

FINNEGANS

This party isn't about green beer and tired stereotypes. Ultimately, it's not even really about St. Patrick's Day. While this do-gooder brewery is 19 years old, this holiday weekend marks the one-year anniversary of their taproom. The beer starts flowing on Friday with the release of Jacqued Up Double IPA, followed by the George and Blueberry Lagers on Saturday, and Sunday's debut of Firsties

FRIDAY

FILM

DREAD IN THE WEST: A PAIR OF ANTI-WESTERNS

TRYLON CINEMA

Dread in the West: A Pair of Anti-Westerns introduces two invigoratingly original approaches to the Western genre. Robert Altman's *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* (1971) opens with the Western trope of an enigmatic stranger riding into a rundown town, but from there the narrative takes a turn by having the film's protagonist (Warren Beatty) be a charismatic fraud whose empty boasts are a match for neither his partner in the brothel business (Julie Christie) nor the gunmen set on renegotiating ownership. Featuring songs by Leonard Cohen, Altman's film makes for a mournful rumination of encroaching mortality. This theme is shared by *Dead Man* (1995), a cult favorite from indie auteur Jim Jarmusch. The existential narrative follows a meek accountant (Johnny Depp) as he travels west for a job only to find himself wanted for murder following an act of self-defense that leaves him mortally wounded and in the care of a Native American named Nobody. With a disorienting Neil Young soundtrack, *Dead Man* depicts the Old West as an illusionary fever dream far stranger than Hollywood had ever imagined. 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday. 2820 E. 33rd St., Minneapolis; 612-424-5468. **Through Sunday** —BRAD RICHASON



MIRAMAX FILMS

Imperial Irish Ale, a bigger, bolder take on the brand's flagship Irish Ale. There will be beer-related excitement, food-truck eats, and live tunes through the weekend, but antics get amplified on the final day, as the brewery opens early on Sunday with a toast at 10 a.m., followed by rollicking live tunes. Noon to midnight Friday; 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday; 9 a.m. to midnight Sunday. Free. 817 Fifth Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-454-0615.

Through Sunday —LOREN GREEN

COMEDY

ANDREW SCHULZ

ACME COMEDY CO.

Andrew Schulz is probably most recognized as a cast member of the TV series *Sneaky Pete* and his past work on MTV's *Guy Code*. On the latter, he got to demonstrate his knowledge about relationships, something he still does onstage. "Women, you show love through love, we show love through sacrifice," he explains to an audience. He insists men show love all the time, but their partners don't know it. "For example, we're sitting on the couch, cuddling, chilling, and watching movies. You've got your leg on top of my leg. I don't want your leg there. At no point in time during the movie am I thinking, 'Baby, you know what would make this better? If I had no feeling from the hip down.'" The insecure guy can't ask her to move her leg, however, because he assumes the situation would go south quickly. "I want to ask you to take your leg off mine," he says. He worries that she might hear: "Get your fat dinosaur

thigh off me, you beast! Are you a centaur, because you look human but your leg feels like a horse's?" And so, he lets his leg fall asleep in a silent sacrifice for love. 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$22. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

THEATER

THE MIKADO

HOWARD CONN FINE ARTS CENTER

In Rick Shiomi's version of *The Mikado*, the Japanese-American playwright, director, and former artistic director of Theatre Mu rids the story of stereotypes and yellowface by setting the piece in Edwardian England. The switch works, as the original was created to poke fun at British politics and society. By taking out the "oriental" and "exotic" elements of Gilbert & Sullivan's famous operetta, Shiomi wipes out the more cringe-worthy aspects of the play, leaving the fun intact, including merry maids, young lovers, and frivolity. Shiomi's reboot of *The Mikado* was first co-presented by Theatre Mu and Skylark Opera back in 2012. It has since gone on to be part of the national conversation on how to deal with culturally appropriative plays and operas. Shiomi directs this production along with the Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, plus Saturdays starting March 23. \$16-\$26. 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis; 612-871-7400.

Through April 7 —SHEILA REGAN

2019 ST. PATRICK'S WEEKEND

March 15 - 17, 2019

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FRI
3/15

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SAT
3/16

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Erik Berry and Ryan Young
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WED
3/20

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3/22

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St. Patrick's Weekend Celebration

ON THE GREEN LINE

the DUBLINER PUB Tent Event

FRIDAY MARCH 15

IN THE TENT

8pm The Langer's Ball
 9pm Brendan O'Shea
 10pm Ike Reilly

*Friday in the Tent: \$20 in advance at ikereilly.brownpapertickets.com \$25 at the door.
 Tent opens at 7pm.*



**THREE DAYS
11AM TO 2AM**

Sláinte!

SATURDAY MARCH 16 *No Cover*

IN THE PUB

12pm to 3pm "Mac & Cheese"
 (Pete McCauley & Tim Cheesebrow)

3:30pm to 7:30pm Purgatory Hollow
 8pm to 1am Sister Tree

IN THE TENT

4pm to 8pm Two Broke Blokes
 9pm to Midnight PADDY WAGON

SUNDAY MARCH 17 *No Cover*

IN THE PUB

12pm to 3:30pm Tom Dahill and Ginny Johnson
 4pm to 8pm Tiller Black

IN THE TENT

4pm to 8pm Two Broke Blokes
 8:30pm to Midnight Release the Craicen

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ST. PATRICK'S WEEKEND!

MAY 15TH-17TH

FRIDAY MARCH 15

SATURDAY MARCH 16

SUNDAY MARCH 17

BRIAN NAUGHTON

BAGPIPER 5PM

RAMM 9PM

BAGPIPER 2PM

DAINA DEPREZ 2:30-5:30PM



ST. PATRICK'S SPECIALS SAT & SUN

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LEILA NAVIDI

SATURDAY 3.16

HOLIDAY

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADES

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday, meaning this is kind of a three-day holiday weekend. While bars and clubs will be hosting multi-day events, one of the more traditional ways to actually celebrate St. Pat is by attending one of the local parades. In St. Paul, things kick off at noon with the city's 53rd annual march (www.stpatsmn.org). This charming parade is a popular one, as Twin Cities organizations, bands, firefighters, politicians, and more make their way through town in a sea of green. The parade starts at Fifth Street and Wacouta. Once it reaches Rice Park, it will loop around the block, ending at Fourth and Market. Plenty of bars will be open afterward, or go for some wholesome family fun at the nearby Landmark Center, where there will be Celtic music, dance, children's activities, and more until 5 p.m. On the other side of the river, the humble Minneapolis parade (www.mplsstpats.org) is a little smaller, and more of a happy-hour attraction. It kicks off this Saturday at 6:30 p.m., starting at Sixth Street and traveling down Nicollet Mall until it reaches 11th Street. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

DANCE PARTY/DRAW

FLIP PHONE XXL: SPRING BREAK

FIRST AVENUE

Tonight, hordes of revelers will make their way into bars to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Flip Phone, however,

will be honoring spring break. At this evening staycation, you'll be able to warm up on the hot dance floor, as DJ Fancy Restaurant spins tunes from Rihanna, Ariana Grande, Britney Spears, Beyoncé, and more. Other queens will be adding energy to the evening live, with pop-up performances from *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars* alumnus Farrah Moan and Phi Phi O'Hara, plus Vincent the Destroyer, Sunny Kiriyama, and Tygra. Come in your spring break best, be it a Hawaiian shirt or neon thong and shades. 18+. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$12; \$45 VIP. 701 N. First Ave., Minneapolis; 612-332-1775. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THEATER

CYRANO DE BERGERAC

GUTHRIE THEATER

In Edmond Rostand's oft-imitated comedy *Cyrano de Bergerac*, the central figure is a soldier of accomplishment and daring, intellectually gifted and wise in the ways of the world. With such prodigious attributes, an exceptionally large nose shouldn't seem so devastating, yet Cyrano's insecurity renders him a nervous wreck before Roxane, the woman of his dreams. Believing himself unworthy of Roxane's affections, Cyrano settles for romance by proxy, channeling his poetically devoted prose through Christian, a handsome but dull-witted fellow cadet. Infusing romantic longing with linguistic balladry, *Cyrano de Bergerac* remains revered for its rapturous command of language. As such, much focus will be placed on artistic director Joseph Haj, who is serving as the production's adaptor and director. Haj is thoroughly versed

in the work, having adapted the text in 2006 for an acclaimed production by North Carolina's PlayMakers Repertory Company. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays; matinees scheduled some weekends. \$29-\$78. 818 S. Second St., Minneapolis; 612-377-2224. **Through May 5 —BRAD RICHASON**

OPERA

THE FIX

ORDWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Minnesota Opera continues to prioritize innovation and originality. While brand-new operas are a relative rarity, Twin Citians are treated to world premieres with uncommon regularity: 2011's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night*, 2016's *The Shining*, and 2020's forthcoming *Edward Tulane*, based on a book by local author Kate DiCamillo. Don't take for granted that Minnesota opera fans can call a show "this season's world premiere"—especially when this season's world premiere, *The Fix*, is an unlikely fusion of orchestral music, sports, and American legend. Librettist Eric Simonson directs this operatic retelling of the 1919 Chicago Black Sox scandal, when the Chicago White Sox, led by Shoeless Joe Jackson, helped rig the World Series. Composer Joel Puckett provides original music while Joshua Dennis stars as Shoeless Joe and Kelly Markgraf plays sportswriting legend Ring Lardner in this true tale of athletes, mobsters, and the subversion of an American pastime. 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Tuesday, plus Thursday, March 24, and Saturday, March 23; 2 p.m. March 24. \$25-\$215. 345 Washington St., St. Paul; 651-224-4222. **Through March 24 —BRYAN MILLER**

SUNDAY 3.17

ART

NORTHEAST WINTER MARKET

CHOWGIRLS AT SOLAR ARTS

This is the last Northeast Winter Market of the season, so hopefully that means the spring will be here soon. This Sunday, Chowgirls will host a pop-up shopping experience full of delicious things to sample, eat, and take home. Locally made delights include kimchi, salsa, maple syrup, cheese, meats, and kombucha. Local beers, bloody Marys, and mimosas will be served at the bar, and Chowgirls' menu today includes tacos, breakfast sandwiches, and chia pudding. Shop while DJs spin vinyl tunes; children's activities will also be offered. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. 711 15th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-203-0786. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



st. patrick's week events

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2019 ST. PATRICK'S WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MARCH 15TH

3 PM – 6 PM

Happy Hour

3 PM – 6 PM

Live Music with The Tim Malloys

7 PM – 9:30 PM

Live Music with Paul Seeba

ALL NIGHT

Drink Specials & Green Beer

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH

7 AM – 11 AM

Breakfast Buffet

8 AM

Bar Service Begins

11 AM – 1 PM

Live Music with Holy Ground (Club Donegal)

1 PM – 3 PM

K102 Appearance with Muss

3 PM – 5 PM

Live Music with Michael & Allison

5 PM – 7 PM

Live Music with Chris Bertrand

5 PM – 10 PM

City Pages Street Team

7 PM – MIDNIGHT

Live Music with The Tim Malloys

8 PM – 1 AM

Live Music with DJ Wicked (Club Donegal)

SUNDAY, ST. PATRICK'S DAY

7 AM – 11 AM

Breakfast Buffet

10 AM

Bar Service Begins

2 PM – 4 PM

Live Music with Paul Seeba

4 PM – 6 PM

Live Music with Cole Thomas (Club Donegal)

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM

Bagpipes March and Performance

5:15 PM – 6 PM

Live Performance with Irish Dancers

5 PM – 11 PM

Live Music with The Tim Malloys

6 PM – 8 PM

Live Music with Chris Herriges (Club Donegal)



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FILM

CAPTAIN MARVEL

The origin tale of a badass feminist icon



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS

BY TONY LIBERA

In the grand scheme of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Captain Marvel* is something of an oddity. While the origin story of Carol Danvers (Brie Larson) stands out as a cultural milestone, it's also a pretty average movie.

There's nothing about Disney's latest superhero spectacle that's outright awful, and *Captain Marvel* does enough things right to be enjoyable despite its flaws. But Danvers' tale here feels a bit like filler, more a bridge to *Avengers: Endgame* than a standalone epic. And such a middling position in the superhero pantheon is something of a disservice to a character that is perhaps the most important in the MCU thus far.

In *Captain Marvel's* defense, the cards were stacked against it. Coming off the post-*Infinity War* hype train, it would be hard for any tie-in to carry the same steam, and the movie's subject makes for a tough hill to climb. Script troubles invariably arise when fleshing out comic-book top dogs, which is why Superman movies are almost always bad. When you're the strongest of the strong, like

Captain Marvel, the stakes can feel somewhat trivial.

But to their credit, the screenwriters found a clever way around that point. Unlike most origin flicks, *Captain Marvel* starts in the middle of things, with our amnesiac hero-in-waiting living on the planet Hala, the Kree home world. She can shoot energy blasts from her hands, but her abilities are dampened. Though she doesn't know it, her early skillset pales in comparison to her true power.

That would be all well and good, but because of *Captain Marvel's* real-world timeline, things get predictable. After being captured by the shapeshifting alien Skrulls, Danvers crash lands on Earth and soon finds out that things with the Kree are not what they appear.

Of course, those of us who've seen *Guardians of the Galaxy* know that this particular alien race has some major skeletons in the closet, and the appearance of two of that film's bad guys doesn't do the big reveal any favors. As such, takeaways from *Captain Marvel* center more on the Skrulls and Avengers than the title character herself.

CAPTAIN MARVEL

directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck
area theaters, now playing

And yet, for all its faults, this movie still has a lot to love. Marvel's casting has always been top-notch, and with Larson they've found a perfect face for the franchise moving forward.

Danvers shows so much potential that it's hard not to be pumped for things to come, both in *Endgame* and beyond. Whether she's blowing off jerks telling her to smile or pummeling alien enemies with her bare hands, Captain Marvel positions herself as a badass feminist icon. Her humanity solidifies her relatability, and as she picks herself up from the dirt again and again and again, you can't help but be excited for a generation of young girls—and more—who get a role model that makes Iron Man look like an ant.

So *Captain Marvel* isn't the best movie to come out of the MCU, and that's OK. Thor had two so-so outings before hitting big with *Ragnarok*, and Danvers has plenty of time to make a splash. After all, the future is female. **C+**

THEATER

SHE PERSISTS

Five female playwrights tackle political divide in 10 minutes

Playwrights Sara Richardson, Ashawnti Sakina Ford, Nora Montañez, and Audrey Park



RICH RYAN

BY JAY GABLER

“One of the things theater does,” says Noël Raymond, “is create that space that can connect people emotionally in ways that sometimes you can’t even verbalize. I feel like that’s what we need. We need to feel connected.”

Raymond, one of two artistic directors at Pillsbury House Theatre, is directing *She Persists: The Great Divide III*. The anthology of five short plays is the third installment in an annual series that began in 2017.

“When the 2016 election happened,” Raymond remembers, “we talked about, ‘What could our response be?’” Inspired by the 10-minute plays that came out of the theater’s Chicago Avenue Project, Pillsbury House decided to ask five different playwrights to create work “based on their perception of what this election has revealed.”

The shows sold out. “It was so successful,” says Raymond. “A great way to use art is to think about and talk about those issues. We decided to keep doing it for all four years of this administration.”

Audrey Park, who returns as part of the *She Persists* ensemble, is the only actor to have participated in all three iterations of *The Great Divide*. “We’ve had some pretty interesting conversations during the talkbacks,” she recalls. “Those might even be the things that stick out more than the performance.”

SHE PERSISTS

Pillsbury House Theatre
3501 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-825-0459; through March 24

Despite the series’ title, these plays aren’t debates. While some after-show discussion has focused on how to bridge the red-blue divide, says Raymond, a primary purpose is to help community members process today’s reality and support one another.

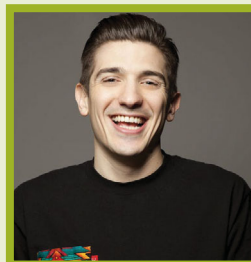
“Some of the reasons to continue doing this is just that it’s so traumatic for so many people, with what’s happening,” Raymond says. “How do we let the political debate happen, on one layer of things, but really take care of the human beings who are most vulnerable and most impacted by the things that are happening?”

This year’s plays will explore the experiences of women in 2019, and into an imagined future. The first play, Aamera Siddiqui’s *I Voted*, says Raymond, is set in a “dystopian future where things are really on the line. It’s issues of voter suppression, and what would happen if some of the things we’re seeing have gone even further.”

Playwright Cristina Florencia Castro’s contribution takes place in the suburbs, says Raymond, with a teacher “who’s an immigrant and has wanted to teach an all-women Spanish class. That one is very comical, but also painful.”

“This is the second time I’ve been in a production that features all women,” says Park. “That, in itself, is a powerful feeling. The energy in the room is quite different.”

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Andrew Schulz

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with guest IDA MAE
Doors 7pm • Music 8pm

SAT, MAR 30



TOMMY CASTRO AND
THE PAIN KILLERS
with guest COREY STEVENS
Doors 7:30pm • Music 8pm

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HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

Tyler Michaels-King Photo by Allen Weeks

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

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MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN TRASK

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STREET *Style*

ROBYN AFTERPARTY WITH DETOX Hosted by Flip Phone on March 5 **BY AMY GEE**



JUNGLE BUNNY

27, WORKS FOR AMAZON

What are you wearing?

Top from Buffalo Exchange, H&M shorts, everything else from Amazon.

Describe your style:

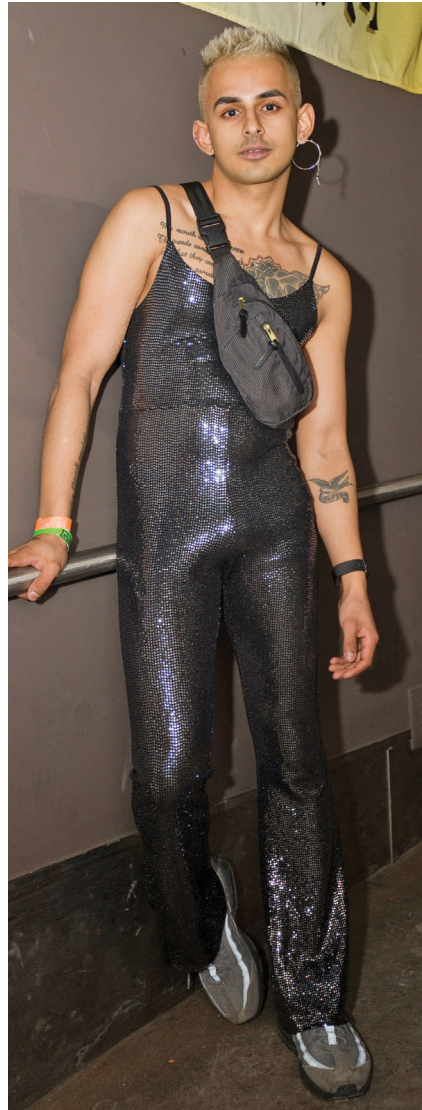
Black, head-turning, Naomi Campbell, unpadded, and untucked.

Where do you get style inspiration?

From the scene kids I grew up with in Utah, Vivienne Westwood, Copenhagen Fashion Week, and a little bit of Rihanna.

If you could inherit anyone's closet, whose would it be?

Susanne Bartsch.



ANU SAM

24, OPERATIONS MANAGER

What are you wearing?

Sequin jumpsuit from Urban Outfitters, Nike Air Max shoes, fanny pack from ASOS.

Describe your style:

Eclectic and not serious.

Where do you get style inspiration?

Queer culture and divas of decades past.

Your favorite purchase within the last year:

A gold jumpsuit from Fashion Nova.



ZEB CARLSON

39, MARKETING STRATEGIST

What are you wearing?

American Eagle jeans, ASOS top and bracelets, jacket from Target, Amali shoes from Amazon.

Describe your style:

30 percent too much.

Where do you get style inspiration?

Film and music.

Your favorite purchase within the last year:

A koi fish satin suit that I'm wearing to a wedding this summer. I call it gay camo.

CITY PAGES

STREET TEAM

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COURTESY OF THE SIMPSONS

LET'S D'OH CRAZY

Did Prince's rivalry with Michael Jackson stop him from appearing on *The Simpsons* in the '90s?

BY JAY BOLLER

Prince almost started a funky sexual revolution in Springfield. We learn as much in *Springfield Confidential*, original *Simpsons* writer Mike Reiss' 2018 book about his life working on history's greatest TV comedy. Throughout its 30-season run, only three or four fully completed scripts were eventually scrapped, according to Reiss.

One of those happened to star Prince. The brief, unrequited Prince-*Simpsons* relationship began while *Simpsons* co-creator James L. Brooks was developing his 1994 film *I'll Do Anything*.

"It was intended to be a musical at first, and the original music was written by Prince," Reiss says of *I'll Do Anything*, speaking by phone from New York City. "That's what brought James L. Brooks and Prince together. But it turned out not to work as a musical—all the musical numbers were cut."

Still, Brooks' brush with the Minnesota-born superstar inspired an idea: What if Leon Kompowsky—a psychiatric patient who believes he's Michael Jackson (and is voiced by Jackson) in Season 3's "Stark Raving Dad"—returned to Springfield? Only this time Leon is convinced he's Prince. So it was a lovely idea.

"He would have this very benevolent, Prince-like effect on the whole city," recalls Reiss, *The Simpsons*' longest-serving writer. "They'd be dressing more flamboyantly, embracing their sexuality. And we'd obviously have songs and performances by Prince. So it was a lovely idea."

Two young freelancers, Ian Deitchman and Kristin Rusk, were tasked with crafting the episode, which was slated to run during Season 5 in 1993-94. A fresh-faced writer named Conan O'Brien would handle the re-write.

O'Brien, who'd go on to create fan favorites like "Marge vs. the Monorail" and

"Homer Goes to College," was new to the job, but he was immediately identified as a talented script doctor. John Swartzwelder, author of a record 59 *Simpsons* episodes, noticed the gangly rookie hammering out work, Reiss laughs, and he remarked: "I saw the new guy working in his office; he looks like a dog being punished."

"Conan had just come on staff," Reiss says, noting that O'Brien quickly became a "powerhouse voice" in the writers' room. "And we had him sit in his office for about a week, joking up and polishing up [the Prince script], adding the Conan touch."

Fans got a taste of the finished product when longtime showrunner Al Jean tweeted out a couple pages in 2016.

"Homer, Marge. I don't have presents for you," Prince says as he bestows parting gifts to the family. "But the full spirituality of my love is yours forever."

To which Homer, clearly frustrated, responds: "C'mon—we fed you!"

There's even an erotically charged moment... with Marge's laryngitic sister Selma.

Armed with a killer script, *The Simpsons* team only needed the Purple One to sign off. The immediate feedback? He loved it. Prince's manager only requested slight changes, most of them dealing with wardrobe details, Reiss says.

There was one massive problem, however: Prince had read an entirely different script. In a baffling coincidence, a writing team with zero affiliation to *The Simpsons* had also shipped over a Prince-visits-Springfield story, one that apparently delighted Prince.

"The first thing we did, is we looked at their script and—at least to our tastes—it was unusable," Reiss says. "Then we sent him our version, and that was it: He just rejected it."

Reiss theorizes that Prince likely bailed because he'd have to voice a character that once belonged to Michael Jackson, his intense rival. (Jean's script teaser also reveals a potshot at *Graffiti Bridge*, Prince's critically bludgeoned 1990 film.) In fact, when Jackson read a rough draft of "Stark Raving Dad," he only objected to one joke, according to Reiss: a reference to Prince.

(The Jackson episode was pulled from syndication last week after the *Leaving Neverland* documentary re-publicized child abuse allegations against the star.)

While likely bummed by Prince's rejection, Deitchman and Rusk would go on to long careers writing for TV and film. That O'Brien kid did OK for himself, too. And a decade after rebuffing *The Simpsons*, Prince would appear in an extended cameo role for another Fox program, Zooey Deschanel's *The New Girl*.

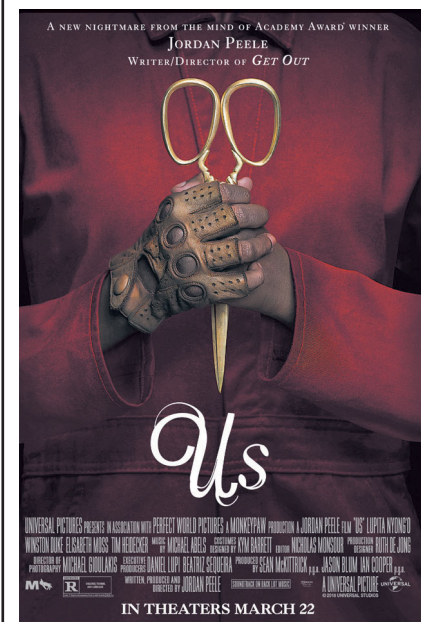
Striking out on Prince proved to be a rare celebrity guest setback for *The Simpsons*. Among the many, many music stars who've done TV's longest-running scripted series: Johnny Cash, appearing as a psychedelic space coyote; Sir Paul McCartney, acting as Apu's vegetarian pal; James Taylor, singing sweetly as Homer's swarmed by ants in outer space; and James Brown, belting out "I Got You (I Feel Good)" at Springfield's ill-fated Do What You Feel Festival. And those are just prime examples from the classic era. (Apparently personalities as far-flung as Lady Gaga and Ted Nugent show up, separately, in Season 23.)

One music giant who has never gone yellow: Minnesota's other prized musical export, Bob Dylan.

"No, it's funny, we're all fans—we're all fans of Prince, too," Reiss says. "It is strange, as far as I know, we've never even approached Dylan."

Any chance Bob visits Springfield, since *The Simpsons* was just renewed for Seasons 31 and 32?

"I've seen him in concert," Reiss chuckles. "I worry about making out what he says." 



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Thursday, Mar. 14 || 7:30 pm
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MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS

MOZZY

CABOOZE, THURSDAY 3.14
 Sacramento's Mozzys is a West Coast street-rap specialist, propelled by a bevy of mixtapes and standout songs like the 2017 song-cry masterpiece "Sleep Walkin." Along the way, he's earned a shout-out from Kendrick Lamar at the Grammys and even a lengthy profile in the Atlantic. He's one of rap's finest lyricists right now, full stop, with hallmarks of his style including the regionality of his slang and the inventive way he uses vocabulary ("Dope dealer showed me to how orchestrate a corner"). He's good for multiple projects a year, with recent releases including the polished opus *Gangland Landlord* and last month's relatively casual mixtape with San Francisco weed-rapper Berner, *Slimey Individualz*. 18+. 10 p.m. \$50/\$65. 917 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis; 612-338-6425. —MICHAEL MADDEN



VINCE STAPLES

PALACE THEATRE, SATURDAY 3.16
 Now 25, the whip-smart Long Beach rapper and hilarious, must-follow Twitter user Vince Staples began as a satellite (not an actual member) of the Odd Future collective at the onset of this decade. He's not an artist to remain stagnant, and his projects tend to have their own distinct identities within his catalog, including 2015's epic double album *Summertime '06*, 2017's electronic-driven *Big Fish Theory*, and last fall's mostly Kenny Beats-produced *FM!*, where he successfully entertained the recent trend of the short, compact rap album. With JPEGMafia and Trill Sammy. 18+. 9 p.m. \$32.50-\$132.50. 17 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-266-8989. —MICHAEL MADDEN

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 with Run Westy Run

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 Mar 20 KFAI March Residency
 *Every Wednesday
 Mar 24 Zaq Baker Trio,
 Fringe Pipes and The Aftergreens
 Mar 28 BTTC 3/28:
 Pelham, Dirt Train,
 Martin Devaney, Simple Machines
 Mar 29 Get Up, Stand-Up
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69							70				71		

GET IN LINE

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1Youngest son on
“Alaskan Bush People”
- 5Goods carrier
- 9Forbids
- 13“Captain America”
star Larson
- 14Treats that come in Thins
and Double Stuf varieties
- 16Do a pressing job?
- 17*Have
- 19Miguel Díaz-Canel's island
- 20Adobe export
- 21TV procedural that
starred Patricia Arquette
and Ted Danson
- 23“Now that makes sense!”
- 26*Fail
- 27Rabbit's foot?
- 28It's east of NC
- 30Pharmacist's word for salt
- 31Keyboard noodler Brian
- 32Heading on a list
- 35Napster creator Parker
- 38*Lose
- 43Langston Hughes poem
about racial equality
- 44Probably the only
soccer star most people
can name who played
50 years ago
- 45RR stop
- 46“Let me think”
- 48Breast Cancer
Awareness Mo.
- 50Bordeaux bro
- 51*Slip
- 51Jerry's neighbor
- 58Weirdo Dali
- 59Instagram posts
- 60Songs for one
opera singer

- 61Be unable to remember,
and what you must do
to make sense of this
puzzle's theme clues
- 66Typed over Hangouts
- 67One-named singer
with the “Live at the
Acropolis” album
- 68Buffalo's lake
- 69Die Zeit article
- 70Kinda bummed
- 71Arousing

Down

- 1Giannis Antetokounmpo's
league
- 2Ruler's sphere?
- 3Tank's contents
- 4Piles
- 5Parade detritus
- 6Toy's sound
- 7Flinch, say
- 8Chest area
- 9Specialized equipment?
- 10Its capital is Oranjestad
- 11Swedish prize
- 12Hair tangle
- 15Mixes things up
- 18It's just a thought
- 22Stop working
- 23Crude dudes?: Abbr.
- 24Ho Chi Minh
Mausoleum city
- 25“‘You can't make me”
- 29Spot for a belt
- 33Expected soon
- 34Capital to spend
kroner in
- 36Indian tea

- 37Short denial
- 39Method of cooking that
involves submerging in a
plastic bag
- 40Reason to stop talking
- 41Result of a bad night's
sleep
- 42Middling
- 47Blouse with a sailor collar
- 49Chicago newspaper,
briefly
- 51Davis of Hollywood
- 52Tennis star Osaka
- 53Page of Hollywood
- 54Mil. defense acronym
that's an anagram of
55-Down
- 55Clog opener that's an
anagram of 54-Down
- 57Bars on trucks
- 62Peoria-to-Des Moines dir.
- 63Live and breathe
- 64Cancel
- 65Door opener

Last Week's Answer

I	B	M		H	U	S	K	S		R	P	M	S
D	O	O		U	S	T	E	N		E	L	A	L
A	L	T		D	O	U	B	L	E	B	A	D	U
H	A	H	A		F	R	A		D	R	Y	E	R
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S	Y	S		Z	I	P	U	P		D	O	N	O
E	M	B	R	A	C	E	T	H	E	S	U	C	K
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O	V	A	L		E	L	R	O	Y		I	O	U
L	A	W	S		G	E	E	S	E		I	N	T

331club

wed : march 13
7pm : kfai house party presents
big harp george
9:30pm : lowry bridge

thu : march 14
9:30pm : jonathan delehanty
& the wild vylets,
stereo library,
joseph r. downing

fri : march 15
7pm : laura and sean's
movie and music trivia
10pm : buffalo fuzz country collective
warren thomas fenzi,
lena elizabeth,

sat : march 16
7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin' spelling bee
10pm : porch knights,
solidstate, blinds

sun : march 17
3-5pm : the cement factory at dusk
plays sad songs for the
end of the world
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : march 18
8pm : the roe family singers
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : march 19
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening
civilization
9:30pm : 331 club and fair state brewing
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MONDAY MARCH 18
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): The coming weeks might be a good time to acquire a flamethrower. It would come in handy if you felt the urge to go to a beach and incinerate mementoes from an ex-ally. It would also be useful if you wanted to burn stuff that reminds you of who you used to be and don't want to be any more; or if you got in the mood to set ablaze symbols of questionable ideas you used to believe in but can't afford to believe in any more. If you don't want to spend \$1,600+ on a flamethrower, just close your eyes for 10 minutes and visualize yourself performing acts of creative destruction like those I mentioned.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus aphorist Olivia Dresher writes that she would like to be "a force of nature," but "not causing any suffering." The way I interpret her longing is that she wants to be wild, elemental, uninhibited, primal, raw, pure—all the while without inflicting any hurt or damage on herself or anyone else. In accordance with your astrological omens, Taurus, that's a state I encourage you to embody in the coming weeks. If you're feeling extra smart—which I suspect you will—you could go even further. You may be able to heal yourself and others with your wild, elemental, uninhibited, primal, raw, pure energy.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In some major cities, the buttons you push at a crosswalk don't actually work to make the traffic light turn green faster. The same is true about the "Close Door" buttons in many elevators. Pushing them doesn't have any effect on the door. Harvard psychologist Ellen Langer says these buttons are like placebos that give you "the illusion of control." I bring this phenomenon to your attention, Gemini, in hope of inspiring you to scout around for comparable things in your life. Is there any situation where you imagine you have power or influence, but probably don't? If so, now is an excellent time to find out—and remedy that problem.

♊ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Philip Boit was born and raised in Kenya, where it never snows except on the very top of Mount Kenya. Yet he represented his country in the cross-country skiing events at the Winter Olympics in 2002 and 2006. How did he do it? He trained up north in snowy Finland. Meanwhile, Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong competed for Ghana in the slalom in the 2010 Winter Olympics. Since there was no snow in his homeland, he practiced his skills in the French Alps. These two are your role models for the coming months, Cancerian. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you'll have the potential to achieve success in tasks and activities that may not seem like a natural fit.

♊ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In the process of casting for his movie *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, director David Fincher considered selecting A-list actress Scarlett Johansson to play the heroine. But ultimately he decided she was too sexy and radiant. He wanted a pale, thin, tougher-looking actress, whom he found in Rooney Mara. I suspect that in a somewhat similar way, you may be perceived as being too much something for a role you would actually perform quite well. But in my astrological opinion, you're not at all too much. In fact, you're just right. Is there anything you can do—with full integrity—to adjust how people see you and understand you without diluting your brightness and strength?

♊ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1993, an English gardener named Eric Lawes used his metal detector to look for a hammer that his farmer friend had lost in a field. Instead of the hammer, he found the unexpected: a buried box containing 15,234 old Roman silver and gold worth more than four million dollars today. I bring this to your attention, Virgo, because I suspect that you, too, will soon discover something different from what you're searching for. Like the treasure Lawes located, it might even be more valuable than what you thought you wanted.

♊ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role of the lover," wrote author James Baldwin. "If I love you, I have to make you conscious of the things you don't see." To fully endorse that statement, I'd need to add two adverbs. My version would be, "The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role of the lover. If I love you, I have to kindly and compassionately make you conscious of the things you don't see." In accordance with current astrological omens, I recommend that you Libras enthusiastically adopt that mission during the coming weeks. With tenderness and care, help those you care about to become aware of what they've been missing—and ask for the same from them toward you.

♊ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): For thousands of generations, our early ancestors were able to get some of the food they needed through a practice known as persistence hunting. They usually couldn't run as fast as the animals they chased. But they had a distinct advantage: They could keep moving relentlessly until their prey grew exhausted. In part that's because they had far less hair than the animals, and thus could cool off better. I propose that we adopt this theme as a metaphor for your life in the coming weeks and months. You won't need to be extra fast or super ferocious or impossibly clever to get what you want. All you have to do is be persistent and dogged and disciplined.

♊ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Womps'kuk Skoesuks Brooke is a Native American woman of the Mohegan tribe. According to her description of Mohegan naming traditions, and reported by author Elisabeth Pearson Waugaman, "Children receive names that are descriptive. They may be given new names at adolescence, and again as they go through life according to what their life experiences and accomplishments are." She concludes that names "change as the individual changes." If you have been thinking about transforming the way you express and present yourself, you might want to consider such a shift. 2019 will be a favorable time to at least add a new nickname or title. And I suspect you'll have maximum inspiration to do so in the coming weeks.

♊ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): For many of us, smell is our most neglected sense. We see, hear, taste, and feel with vividness and eagerness, but allow our olfactory powers to go underused. In accordance with astrological omens, I hope you will compensate for that dearth in the coming weeks. There is subtle information you can obtain—and in my opinion, need quite strongly—that will come your way only with the help of your nose. Trust the guidance provided by scent.

♊ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Essayist Nassim Nicholas Taleb says humans come in three types: fragile, robust, or antifragile. Those who are fragile work hard to shield themselves from life's messiness. The downside? They are deprived of experiences that might spur them to grow smarter. As for robust people, Taleb believes they are firm in the face of messiness. They remain who they are even when they're disrupted. The potential problem? They may be too strong to surrender to necessary transformations. If you're the third type, antifragile, you engage with the messiness and use it as motivation to become more creative and resilient. The downside? None. In accordance with the astrological omens, Aquarius, I urge you to adopt the antifragile approach in the coming weeks.

♊ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 2014, NASA managed to place its MAVEN spacecraft into orbit around Mars. The cost of the mission was \$671 million. Soon thereafter, the Indian government put its own vehicle, the Mangalyaan, into orbit around the Red Planet. It spent \$74 million. As you plan your own big project, Pisces, I recommend you emulate the Mangalyaan rather than the MAVEN. I suspect you can do great things—maybe even your personal equivalent of sending a spacecraft to Mars—on a relatively modest budget.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

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The Sins of the Grandfather

Sexual abuse and its complications

My grandfather was a pillar of the community and beloved by his family. He was also sexually abusive. He died when I was a child.

I remember only one incident happening to me—during a cuddle session, he encouraged me to put my mouth on his penis, and then told me to let it be our little secret.

I heard rumors as an adult that he molested other kids in the neighborhood. He also had a sexual relationship with my mother. She says nothing happened as a child. But as an adult, he started telling her he loved her in a romantic way. He told her he wanted to take nude Polaroids of her, and she let him. She and her sisters all pretty much idolized him.

My one aunt knew, and I asked her how she reconciled that. She said she compartmentalized it—she thought he was a wonderful father and didn't really think about the other stuff.

So now it's 2019 and I'm almost 50. My mom just moved into a nursing home, and while cleaning out her drawers, I found the Polaroids my grandfather took of her. I know it was him because he is in some of them, taken into a mirror as she goes down on him. She had led me to believe he never really did anything sexual with her besides taking photos. And here's the thing, Dan: In the photos, she looks happy.

I know she was probably acting, because that's what he wanted from her. But it just makes me question my assumptions. Was it terrible abuse or forbidden love? Both?

WHIRLWIND OF EMOTIONS

I think you should watch *Leaving Neverland*, the new HBO documentary. It focuses on Wade Robson and James Safechuck, two now-adult men who were sexually abused by Michael Jackson when they were boys. Allegedly. It's not easy to watch, as it includes graphic descriptions of the sexual abuse both men claim to have suffered as boys.

The second most disturbing part after the graphic descriptions of child rape—or

the third most disturbing part after the credulity/culpability of Robson's and Safechuck's parents—may be what the men have to say about Jackson. Both describe their abuser in romantic terms. They both say they loved Jackson. And they both remain deeply conflicted about their feelings.

It was their affection for Jackson that led both men to lie to law enforcement officials when Jackson was accused of abusing different boys.

You should also listen to director Dan Reed's interview on *The Gist*, Mike Pesca's terrific podcast. Your letter reminded me of something Reed said: "What the film is about is the reckoning. It's two families coming to terms with what happened to their sons. And a big part of understanding that, you know—so why the silence? Why did the sons

keep silent for so long? Why did they keep the secret?"

Your mother, like Robson and Safechuck, lied to protect her abuser, a man who abused her and abused you and probably many others. She may have held on to those photos for the same reason Robson and Safechuck say they defended Jackson: She loved her father, and she was so damaged by what he did to her that she felt "loved" and "special" in the same way. So as horrifying as it is to contemplate, your mother may have held on to those photos because they represent, for her, "fond memories."

Leaving Neverland demonstrates that sexual predators like your grandfather and Jackson plant time bombs in their victims. Even if a victim doesn't initially experience their abuse as a violation, a reckoning almost inevitably comes. One day, the full horror of what was done snaps into focus.

It doesn't sound like your mother ever had her reckoning and so she never came to grips with what was done to her and, tragically, what was done to you.

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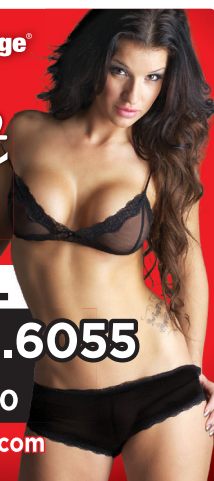
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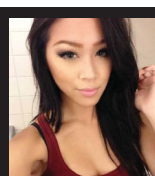
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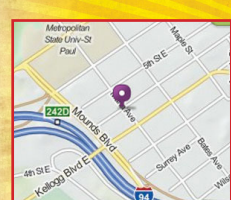
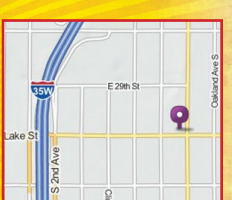
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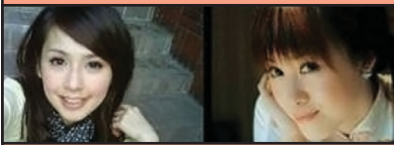

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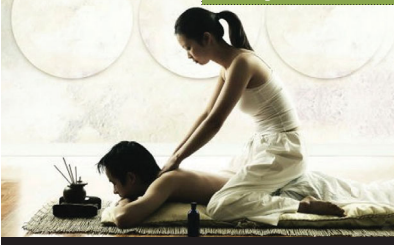
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